

Abstract of the Disclosure

A balloon catheter assembly including an inflation port having a seal disposed thereon to maintain the inflation lumen and balloon substantially free of air or other gas prior to use or during storage. Prior to use, the evacuated lumen is filled with liquid  
5 which releases the vacuum therein and brings the pressure up to at least atmospheric pressure without introducing air or other gases into the lumen, assuring a properly prepared balloon catheter free of air. A sealing device is provided which allows placing a seal on the port while pulling or maintaining vacuum on the lumen.

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 110:** The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described hereinabove, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, Express Mail Post Office to Addressee having an Express Mail Mailing label number of: EL595468205US

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

on this 15th day of February, 2001  
Crompton, Seager & Tufts, LLC

By: Kashlee L. Bockley